

The THOREAU SOCIETY

BULLETIN

The Thoreau Society, Inc., is an informal gathering of students and followers of Henry D. Thoreau. T.L. Bailey, Cleveland, O., pres.; Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, Concord, Mass., vice-pres.; Walter Harding, State University College, Geneseo, N.Y., sec. treas. Annual membership, two dollars; life, twenty-five.

WINTER, 1963

BULLETIN EIGHTY-TWO

THOREAU'S RHETORIC AND CAREW'S LINES

by Lee A. Pederson

The common reader of Walden, especially the college freshman, is sometimes perplexed and sometimes delighted with the lines from Carew's Coleum Britannicum. If not bewildered to find Thoreau apparently refuting the earlier arguments for simplicity, he is flattered to find his own impressions of Thoreau poetically phrased and entitled "The Pretensions of Poverty." Scholars Miller, Foerster, Shanley, and Paul, have not mentioned the lines in their important studies of Thoreau and Walden; whereas others, who are not Thoreau specialists, Briss, Dunlap, and Matthiessen, have assumed Thoreau included the lines because he liked the poetry of Thomas Carew. The following considerations are listed here to suggest an aspect of Thoreau's rhetoric with reference to the structure of Walden and to encourage a more nearly complete analysis of Thoreau's craftsmanship than is presently available.

Since the classification, COMPLEMENTAL VERSES, as well as the title, is Thoreau's, it is useful to consider the full meaning of the adjective. Doesn't it mean ceremonious, gratuitous, and complementary? Isn't it a pun that should have been noted in the recent list of wordplays in Walden by Mr. David Skwire and in Mr. J. Golden Taylor's monograph on Thoreau's critical humor? The presentation of the verses is ceremonious, a mockingly solemn deference to those "inveterate cavillers" of whom Thoreau was always sensitive. This presentation is also gratuitous, given freely, without recompense, regardless of merit. Finally the content of the verses is complementary, the completion of "Economy," the opposition's view, a classical rejection of simplicity on Thoreau's terms. Mercury's reply to Poverty disparages the notion of attaining a good life through abstinence and voluntary poverty, urging instead an understanding of the patterns for heroic conduct left by the worthies of antiquity.

Although he questions the value of precedence in "Economy" and satirizes the quest for glory through mortal combat in the battle of the ants in "Brute Neighbors," Thoreau, in accordance with the first tenet of "The American Scholar," does accept the past as a source of patterns and precedence of conduct. In "Reading" he echoes Carew: "We should be as good as the worthies of antiquity, but partly by first knowing how good they were." He refuses, however, to accept Carew's judgments concerning the hermit's miserliness and the celibate's unproductiveness. Thoreau accepted playfully the title of hermit, for hermit he was not, in order to define poverty, indolence, and chastity in his own terms. He refers

to "the poverty that enjoys true wealth," to idleness that is "attractive and productive industry," and to chastity, "the flowering of man; and what are called Genius, Heroism, Holiness, and the like, are but various fruits which succeed it."

Thoreau anticipated the higher law of chastity with the familiar passage from the "Gulistan," the parable of the cypress tree, which immediately precedes the lines from Carew. The apparent contradiction of these two passages must be noted and explicated in terms of Thoreau's humor, paradox and pun. Only if every reference to poverty, indolence, and chastity is read with Carew's lines in mind, can the reader appreciate the irony of the directive in "Conclusion": "Cultivate poverty like a garden herb, like sage." Scholars know and appreciate Thoreau's technique; it would seem they owe us a full study of his rhetoric.

THOREAU AND THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE: A CHECKLIST

by Helen B. Morrison

(Editor's note: This bibliography is continued from Thoreau Society Bulletin 77. We greatly regret the long lapse which was due to the surfeit of material about the Thoreau centennial which filled the bulletin to overflowing and wish to express our gratitude to Mrs. Morrison for her patience.)

16. July 29, 1854 Under title New Publications, a section headed A Massachusetts Hermit: "Ticknor and Fields have in press a work by Henry D. Thoreau, entitled 'Life in the Woods,' describing the experience of the author during a solitary residence of two years in a hut on the shore of Walden Pond, in Concord, Massachusetts. The volume promises to be one of curious interest, and by the courtesy of the publishers we are permitted to take some extracts in advance of the regular issue." There are 6 sections with the following headings:

1. The Hermit Builds His Hut
2. The Hermit Plants Beans
3. The Hermit Commences Housekeeping
4. The Hermit's First Summer
5. The Hermit Finds a Friend
6. The Hermit Has Visitors, Many of them Bores

(all in all, almost four columns)

17. New York Tribune for November 10, 1856, under title The Lecturing Season, Thoreau's name occurs in alphabetical list of lecturers.

18. Tribune for November 20, 1856, under title The Lecture Season, an extended list of possible lecturers, includes Thoreau's name.

19. Tribune for September 18, 1857, under title The Lecture Season, a list of 56 names of those "Who lectured with acceptance last winter and are ready to do so this season." The list contains names of O. W. Holmes, Herman Melville, and Thoreau.

20. Tribune for May 21, 1858, in an article by a Boston correspondent, the last paragraph of which reads:

The Atlantic Monthly for June commences with an account of a trip to Lake Chesuncook, in Maine.

This is easily seen to be by Thoreau."

21. Tribune for July 17, 1858, under title: A White Mountain Excursion. Almost two columns of description of which one paragraph says, ". . . that night of fog and rain Mr. Thoreau, the Concord Pan, spent in Tuckerman's Ravine with Judge Hoar, his companion on the Chesunook Tour, two other gentlemen and a guide. I have been assured by one of the party that they woke up in the morning perfectly day, although they had only a cotton tent for a shelter. . . . Mr. Thoreau doubtless understands as well as any mountaineer how to make himself comfortable under such circumstances."

22. Tribune for October 12, 1858, under title The Lecture Season. "The following list of persons desirous of giving lectures this season is as complete as we are able to make it." The list contains over 100 names, including Thoreau of Concord.

23. Tribune for September 9, 1859, under title Lyceum Lecturers. A list of 194 names, among which are Alcott, Emerson and Thoreau of Concord.

24. New York Daily Tribune, October 12, 1859, under column titled Personal: second paragraph.

"Henry D. Thoreau, who is sometimes called 'The Hermit of Concord,' supplied the desk at Music Hall, Boston, on Sunday. Mr. Thoreau is an eccentric individual, having lived until within a short time in a hut in the woods between Concord and Lincoln. He is at present a resident of the Village of Concord, follows surveying as a business, and is an intimate friend of Ralph Waldo Emerson. His subject was 'The Way in Which We Spend Our Lives.' It was an original, racy, and erratic production, and was listened to the close with interest."

25. New York Tribune for November 9, 1859, under column entitled From Boston: one paragraph reads:

"Henry D. Thoreau delivered a lecture on John Brown at the Tremont Temple on Tuesday evening. It was one of the 'Fraternity' course. There were some just and striking remarks in it, and many foolish and ill-natured ones. Sneers at the Republicans were quite frequent. Men like General Wilson, and editors like those of The Tribune and The Liberator, who, while the lecturer was cultivating beans and killing woodchucks on the margin of Walden Pond, made a public opinion strong enough on Anti-Slavery grounds to tolerate a speech from him in defense of insurrection, deserve better treatment than they receive from some of the upstart Abolitionists of the day."

26. Tribune for May 9, 1860, under title New Publications is mentioned "Echoes of Harper's Ferry, comprising the best speeches, sermons, letters, poems, and other utterances of the leading minds of America and Europe, called forth by John Brown's Invasion of Virginia." Thoreau's name included with many others. "The services at Concord, or Liturgy for a Martyr, composed by Emerson, Thoreau, Alcott, Sauborn," etc. collated and arranged by James Redpath.

27. New York Tribune for November 9, 1860. Under title: New Publications. One half column devoted to the description of James Redpath's "Echoes of Harper's

Ferry," mentions all the great speeches, sermons, letters, etc. called forth by John Brown's Invasion. The closing paragraph: "The Services at Concord, or 'Liturgy for a Martyr,' composed by Emerson, Thoreau Alcott and Sauborn, etc. unsurpassed in beauty even by the Book of Common Prayer."

28. New York Tribune for July 30, 1861. Under title: From Concord, a letter dated Concord, Massachusetts, July 26, 1861, signed Argos. Describes a visit to the Concord Battlefield and mentions "The current reversals at Bull Run and Manuesses in the war for the union." One sentence toward the end of the article reads: "I am sorry to say that the excellent naturalist and poet, Henry D. Thoreau, is in poor health."

29. New York Tribune for Saturday, May 10, 1862. Under title: Personal. "Henry D. Thoreau, the genial writer on the natural scenery of New England, died at Concord, Massachusetts on Tuesday, May 6th, after a protracted illness of more than eighteen months. He was a native of Boston, but moved with his family at the age of five years to Concord, where he has since resided. He graduated at Harvard College in 1837, and was nearly forty-five years old at the time of his death. His writings include A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers; Walden, or Life in the Woods; and various contributions to the periodical literature of the day. They are remarkable for their freedom and originality of thought, their quaint humor, and their warm sympathy with all the manifold aspects of nature. His disease was consumption, and, as we are informed, 'his humor and cheerful courage did not forsake him during his sickness, and he met death as gayly as Theramenes in Xenophon's story.' Mr. Thoreau, in spite of the racy individuality of his character, was much beloved and respected by his townsmen, and his writings have numerous admirers. He was honored with a public funeral from the Town Hall of Concord, on Friday, the 9th, inst."

30. New York Tribune for May 28, 1862. Under title: New Publications. "The Atlantic opens with a quaint characteristic essay on 'Walking,' by the late Henry Thoreau, whose recent decease imports an additional interest to every production of his unique pen."

31. New York Tribune for October 21, 1862. Under title: New Publications: "The Atlantic Monthly for November, 1862, is now ready. The contents and contributors are enumerated below. . . . Wild Apples by Henry D. Thoreau," etc., etc.

AN UNPUBLISHED THOREAU POEM: A CORRECTION

by William White, Wayne
State University

The correct reading of line 14 in "Sic Vita," by Henry David Thoreau, American Literature, XXXIV, 119-121, March 1962, is "And then with swelt'ring face," not "such tiring face," as I had it, or "welt'ring," a suggested alternative. The line is given in its correct form in a pamphlet, Sic Vita! (privately printed by the Silverado Press, 1962), in which line 28 is, "They leave the tender bud"; but "bud" for my "mud" cannot be read with the same certainty as "swelt'ring."

The poem, under the title "Summer Song," also appeared in This Week, June 17, 1962, p. 2, but the stanza containing the "swelt'ring" line was omitted.

1963 ANNUAL MEETING . . .

The 1963 annual meeting will be held in Concord on Saturday, July 13. T.L. Bailey will deliver the presidential address. O-dell Shepard will be speaker-of-the-day. At the evening meeting Roland Robbins and Edwin Way Teale will present a tape recording of "Thoreau Sounds" and Walter Harding will read selections from his forthcoming biography of Thoreau.

THOREAU SOCIETY BOOKLETS 17 AND 18

In January copies of the special Thoreau issue of the MASSACHUSETTS REVIEW (Autumn 1962 issue) were mailed to all members, as THOREAU SOCIETY BOOKLET 17. With this bulletin THOREAU SOCIETY BOOKLET 18, the catalog of the Thoreau exhibition at Wayne State University, is being mailed. We are indebted to the MASSACHUSETTS REVIEW and to Wayne State University for their cooperation in aiding us to send these booklets to our members. The cost of these printings was in part covered by the life memberships of Jonathan Piper, Concord, Mass.; Mary Ellen Chase, Northampton, Mass.; Lowell Tozer, El Cajon, Calif.; Sarah Rothman, New York City; Harry Bubb, Hudson, Ohio; Mort Grant, Albany, N.Y.; Mary Fenn, Concord, Mass.; Vernon Pick, Saratoga, Calif.; Henry Wheelwright, Lenox, Mass. and Henry Schormann, Cincinnati, Ohio. Life membership is \$25.00.



"Hop in, Henry."

Reprinted, with permission, from the SATURDAY REVIEW for July 22, 1961.

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY....WH

- Adams, Alexander B. THOREAU'S GUIDE TO CAPE COD. New York: Devin-Adair, 1962. 148pp. \$4.50. A guide to Cape Cod made up of selections from Thoreau's CAPE COD, with an introduction and superb photographs. The selections are re-arranged to fit into an auto tour of the area.
- The Same. Reviews: CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Dec. 9, 1962; PROVINCETOWN ADVOCATE, Dec. 27, 1962; PRESBYTERIAN LIFE, Feb. 1, 1963; BOSTON TRAVELER, Oct. 26, 1962; BOSTON HERALD,

- Dec. 2, 1962; NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS, Winter, 1962; NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, Jan. 1963.
- Baird, Theodore. "Corn Grows in the Night." MASS. REV., IV (Aut. '62), 93-103.
- Baskin, Leonard. Portrait of Thoreau at 44. MASS. REV., IV (Aut. '62), 42.
- Beecher, John. "Homage to a Subversive: For H.D.T., 1817-1862." FRONTIER. Aug. 1962. A poem.
- Bode, Carl. "The Half-Hidden Thoreau." MASS. REV., IV (Aut. '62), 68-80.
- Bonner, Willard H. "Mariners and Terreners: Some Aspects of Nautical Imagery in T." AM. LIT., XXXIV (Jan. '63), 507-519.
- BOOKLOVER'S ANSWER. "Bibliographia--Henry David Thoreau." I (Nov. '62), 15-17. A bibliography.
- Bradford, Robert W. "Thoreau and Therien." AM. LIT., XXXIV (Jan. '63), 499-506.
- Brown, Frances West. "Thoreau and the Modern American Housewife." FREEMAN, XII (Aug. '62), 44-51. Very clever satire.
- Byron, Gilbert. "Henry Thoreau: Botanist-Poet." CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. Dec. 3, 1962. Essay.
- Buber, Martin. "Man's Duty as Man." MASS. REV., IV (Aut. '62), 55.
- Burr, Gray. "The One and Only." MASS. REV., IV (Aut. '62), 92. Poem.
- Bush, T.N.W. "Thoreau in South Africa." MASS. REV., IV (Aut. '62), 90-91.
- Cameron, K.W. "Souvenirs of the Celebration at the Unveiling of Thoreau's Bust in the Hall of Fame." EMERSON SOC. QUART., XXX (1963), 2-5.
- Carpenter, F.I. "American Transcendentalism in India." EMERSON SOC. QUART., XXXI (1963) 59-62.
- Carson, Herbert L. "An Eccentric Kinship; H.D.T.'s 'A Plea for Captain John Brown.'" SO. SPEECH JOUR., XXVII (Winter, 1961), 151-155.
- Chodorov, Frank. "Henry David Thoreau." in OUT OF STEP. New York: Devin-Adair, 1962, pp. 197-205. A salty, vigorous tribute to T's libertarian spirit, written in the vein of T's political essays.
- Clepper, Henry. "The Allagash of Thoreau and 100 Years Later." AMER. FORESTS, LXVIII (Nov. '62), 12ff.
- Clynes, Frank. "Dancing Thoreau Shocked a Friend." BOSTON HERALD. Jan. 13, 1963.
- T. and Ricketson. Announcement of drive to raise funds to restore R's house.
- Condry, Wm. "The Sage of Walden Woods." COUNTRY LIFE, CXXXI (May 3, '62), 1036-7.
- Cook, Reginald L. "Think of This, Yankees!" MASS. REV., IV (Aut. '62), 44-52.
- Daniels, Herb. "Thoreau" in THE MODERN ALMANAC. Chicago: Quadrangle, 1962, 104-5.
- Davidson, Jo. "Henry David Thoreau." MASS. REV., IV (Aut. '62), 109. Photo of bust.
- Derleth, August. CONCORD REEL. Review: N.Y. TIMES, Nov. 11, 1962.
- DesChamps, Grace. "Plaque Once Marked T. Room in Chamberlain Home on Old Road." PROVINCETOWN ADVOCATE. Sept. 27, 1962.
- Dickens, Robert S. "Thoreau and the 'Other Great Tradition.'" EMERSON SOC. Q., XXIX (1962), 26-28.
- Drinnan, Richard. "T's Politics of the Up-

- right Man." MASS.REV., IV (Aut.'62), 126-38
- Erismann, Fred. "T and the Texas Colonel." EMERSON SOC.Q., XXXI (1963), 48-49.
- Fadiman, Clifton. "Reading I've Liked." HOLIDAY, XXXII (Dec.'62), 18-19.
- Fenn, Mary. "T's Centenary Observed in Concord" CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Nov. 2, 1962.
- Freniere, Emil A. "Henry David Thoreau, 1837-1847." Penn. State Ph.D. dissertation, unpublished, 1961.
- GRACE. "Thoreau Centenary." I (Spring '62), 239.
- Gullace, Giovanni. "'Walden' e l'umorismo di T." RLMC, XIV (Sept.'61), 156-161
- Gundappa, DoVo. "Thoreau" SWARAJYA (India), 1963 annual number.
- Hamilton, Franklin W. "HDT's Ideas for Self Education of the Individual." Kansas Univ. Ed.B. dissertation, unpublished, 1961.
- Harding, Walter. "Five Ways of Looking At WALDEN." MASS.REV., IV (Aut.'62), 149-62.
- "This is a Beautiful World." AMER. HERITAGE, XIV (Dec.'62), 106-112.
- Hauge, Ingvar. "Vismannen fra Walden Pond." DAGBLADET (Oslo), April 16, 1962.
- Hoblitzelle, Harrison. "The War Against War in the 19th Century." Columbia Univ., '59 Unpub. Ph.D. dissertation.
- Hoffman, Malvina. "Henry David Thoreau." MASS.REV., IV (Aut.'62), 110. Photo of bust.
- The Same. EMERSON SOC.Q., XXXI (1963), 79.
- Humphrey, Hubert H. "The Thoreau Centenary in Concord." CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Nov. 2, '62.
- Hyman, Stanley Edgar. "Henry Thoreau Once More." MASS.REV., IV (Aut.'62), 163-170
- INDIA NEWS. "Mahatma Gandhi and T." Oct. 1, 1962.
- Ives, Charles. CONCORD SONATA. New York: Time Records, 1962. The second recording of this beautiful sonata in six months, this with Aloys Kontarsky as the pianist. Very well done, if anything, superior to the CRI recording, reviewed earlier.
- "Thoreau" in ESSAYS BEFORE A SONATA AND OTHER WRITINGS. New York: Norton, 1962, pp.51-70. The first authentic scholarly text of this provocative essay on T., hitherto available only in a rare private edition.
- Jacobs, Briant S. "Henry David Thoreau: Individualist," RELIEF SOCIETY MAG. (Salt Lake City), XLIX (Aug.'62), 619-624.
- "Thoreau: Man in Nature." RELIEF SOC. MAG., XLIX (July '62), 540-545.
- Jenkins, Donald. "Walden in July." NEW YORKER. July 14, 1962. p. 75. Poem.
- King, Martin Luther Jr. "A Legacy of Creative Protest." MASS.REV., IV (Aut.'62), 43.
- Krutch, Joseph Wood. MORE LIVES THAN ONE. New York: Sloane, 1962. 378pp. Much on his interest in T.
- Koopman, Louise O. "The Thoreau Romance." MASS.REV., IV (Aut.'62), 61-67.
- Langland, Joseph. "How It, So Help Me, Was." MASS.REV., IV (Aut.'62), 53-54. Poem.
- Leary, Lewis. "Wilderness Is Where You Find It." CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Nov. 2, 1962.
- Lauter, Paul. "Thoreau's Prophetic Testimony." MASS.REV., IV (Aut.'62), 111-123.
- MD. "New England Rebel." VI (Oct.'62), 131-134. Picture essay on T.
- Mason, Herbert. "T on 'Waking'" CATHOLIC WORKER, XXIX (Oct. 62), 3.
- McCormick, Edgar. L. "T. and Higginson." EMERSON SOC. Q., XXXI (1963), 75-78
- McDonnell, Thomas P. "Walden Revisited." MASS.REV., IV (Aut.'62), 148. Poem.
- Meltzer, Milton & Walter Harding. A THOREAU PROFILE. New York: Crowell, 1962. 310pp. \$6.95. This is a novel and certainly useful introduction to T. The text does in fact present a profile by means of material in which original sources predominate; the reader is invited to round out the figure for himself. The material is generally well chosen and simply organized, chronologically for the most part but, in part, topically; the major periods and interests of T's life are thus emphasized. The many illustrations of people, buildings, scenes, and newspaper items are very interesting and help greatly in enabling the reader to recreate T's world. There is, perhaps, a little too much space given to pictures of 'reliques.' The book will whet the reader's appetite for Mr. Harding's future biography of T.--J. Lyndon Shanley.
- The Same. Reviews: NEW YORK STANDARD, Jan. 27 '63; HARTFORD TIMES, Dec. 10 '62; CHRIST. SCI. MONITOR, Nov. 21 '62, Nov. 29 '62; CONCORD JOURNAL, Nov. 22 '62; CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Dec. 9 '62; CAPITAL TIMES (Mad. Wis.), Dec. 20 '62; VINEYARD GAZETTE, Dec. 28 '62; ROCHESTER TIMES-UNION, Jan. 12 '63.
- Metzger, Charles. THOREAU AND WHITMAN. Review. NEW ENG. QUART., Sept. '62.
- Menger, W.H. "Thoreau's WALDEN MS." TRACE, IV (Aut.'61), 209-215.
- Miller, Henry. "Thoreau's Hard Road." PEACE NEWS. [London], Dec. 28, 1962.
- Morgan, James. "Dollar-a-Day Thoreau." BOSTON GLOBE. Dec. 4, 1962.
- Nordell, Roderick. "Notes on Winter Words at Walden." CHRIST. SCIENCE MONITOR, Jan. 19, 1963.
- Nehru, Jawaharlal. Letter on T. MASS.REV. IV (Aut.'62), 89.
- Nelson, Wm. St. "T. and American Non-violent Resistance." MASS.REV., IV (Aut.'62), 56-60
- Nyren, Dorothy. "The Concord Academic Debating Society." MASS.REV. IV (Aut.'62) 81-84.
- Peterson, G.L. "Century after T, Walden Is Still Tranquil." MINNEAPOLIS STAR. Sept. 20, 1962.
- Porter, Eliot. IN WILDNESS IS THE PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD. San Francisco, Sierra Club, 1962. Unquestionably the most beautiful Thoreau book ever published. Quotations from T. illustrated with photographs that are "out of this world"
- Thoreau, H.D. THE THOUGHTS OF THOREAU. Ed. by Edwin Way Teale. N.Y.: Dodd, Mead, 1962. 311pp. \$3.75. A new anthology of epigrams and aphorisms selected from T. and arranged under such topics as "Freedom," "Birds," "Possessions." Teale not only includes the familiar quotations, but through his long study of T. has found many more worth repeating. A stimulating collection and a handy cross-index to T's thought. Also available in deluxe edition.